

Below is a portion of "Andor: Duty, Sacrifice, Honor. Revisiting Andor's Early Stellar Colonization Period", a lecture given by Admiral Varnak T'Qoth (retired) on Andor at the 134th Annual Galactic History Symposium, Reference Startdate 2/2405.29.

Like our brethren the Terrans, Tellarites, Vulcans, and Centaurans, we Andorians shared the dream of exploring the stars, and made the great strides necessary to do just that. However, unlike our brethren, Andor's first contact with alien beings was a violent one. It is that experience which in many ways eventually formed the Andorian Star Clan - or the Star Empire, as some have translated it in Galacta.

As any student of Andorian culture and history knows, the word "clan" has a special meaning in the Andorian language. It relays a sense of belonging to a whole that is greater than its individual parts. Two individual components can seem very dissimilar, but an Andorian has an uncanny ability to link them together in some common way. Thus is it with clans.

So, from the Andorian point of view, the Star Clan was a joining of individual worlds under the banner of peace and exploration. The fact that we encountered what we would eventually call the Vegan Tyranny affected the way we chose to explore and colonize, however, and most of the planets we colonized we did with strategic implications in mind.

We had just begun our first colony on Beta Prime when first contact happened. An exploration vessel barely escaped the encounter with the unknown force. The population of Andor was terrified, quite frankly: we had just taken our first, tentative steps into

our interstellar neighborhood, and had gotten a bloody nose as a result.

The martial spirit of the Andorians of that time was just as strong as it is today. Quickly, Andor mobilized for war and prepared for an invasion that never came. New vessels were built, armed more heavily than those that came before. Existing vessels were assigned to the defense of Andor and Beta Prime, as well as to scout for the enemy. It wasn't long before we found them.

During this time, first contact was made between my people and the Tellarites. This was the first contact Andor had with a *peaceful* alien race, and it was welcomed. We warned them about what we had termed the "Vegan Tyranny", and shared what limited information we had about them. The Tellarites accepted the information, and were content to leave us be. They didn't have the desire to fight against an unknown alien race they had only heard about from another alien race they had just encountered – and to be fair, Andor didn't particularly want to enter into a military alliance with a race of which virtually nothing was known.

The encounter with the Tellarites allowed Andor to divert military assets from patrolling its spinward frontier and reallocate those forces to finding the enemy. As Andorian forces approached coreward, encounters with the enemy grew. In an effort to flank the enemy, the Telcos colony was established to the Galactic East. To Galactic West, Kadacohr had already been colonized about two years prior. The vast distances coupled with the low warp speeds in that pre-dilithium era meant that engagements were actually quite few and far between...

...And I would be remiss in not addressing Arken. The Arkenites have been described as a former subject race of Andorians. I take great exception to this, and I would hope the average Arkenite would do the same. Aside from the Tellarites and the forces of the Vegan Tyranny, the Arkenites were the third intelligent life form we encountered. Keep in mind that we had been fighting the Vegan Tyranny for almost two decades by this point. Arken was positioned in the general vicinity of known enemy operations. So, yes, the Arkenites were viewed with suspicion upon first contact...

- *Lee Wood – Morena Shipyards Yahoo! Group.*
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